

Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Application No. 09/914,356
April 21, 2003

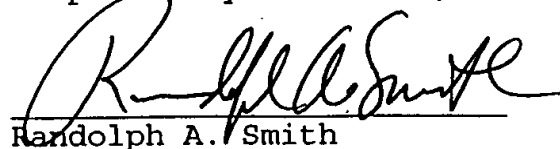
submitted that this change overcomes this rejection and it should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Nanbu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,156,075). Applicants submit herewith an English translation of applicants' priority application (Japanese Patent Application No. 11-50897). This translation proves that applicants are entitled to the February 26, 1999 priority date. This priority date is earlier than Nanbu et al.'s April 15, 1999 U.S. filing date and therefore, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection when acting on this Amendment.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and an action to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 21, 2003

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Submitted herewith is a marked-up version of the amended claims to show changes made in the foregoing Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended as follows:

-- 1. (Twice Amended) A metal chelate-forming fiber characterized in that at least one metal chelate forming compound selected from the group consisting of aminocarboxylic acid, aminodicarboxylic acids, thiocarboxylic acid and phosphoric acid which are reactive to epoxy group is bonded to a fiber molecule of a natural fiber or regenerated fiber through a graft reaction product of a crosslinkable compound which has a reactive double bond and a glycidyl group in its molecule. --

-- 6. (Amended) The metal chelate-forming fiber according to claim 5, wherein said vegetable fiber is a cellulosic [type] fiber. --